



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 1 May 2015

Nine Royal Commission Consultations held this week

The Royal Commission into Family Violence has concluded its second week of community consultations held in southwest Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.

Nine community consultation sessions took place in Colac, Warrnambool, Geelong, Whittlesea, Sandringham and Melbourne this week. Nearly 300 people participated in group-based discussions including women who have experienced family violence, and workers who provide frontline services to people affected by family violence.

Some key themes raised this week include:

- challenges faced by victims who have recently migrated to Australia and who do not use English as their primary language
- challenges faced by older Victorians experiencing family violence
- the importance of developing a range of age-appropriate primary prevention strategies
- the availability of services for victims who live in regional and remote areas
- the value of educating people who come into contact with victims of family violence about the nature and causes of family violence and appropriate ways to respond
- the important role local government can play in fostering family violence prevention and cultural change.

Next week, the Royal Commission will hold sessions in central and northern Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne. For safety reasons, the exact details of the dates and locations of these consultations will be kept confidential and only disclosed to registered participants.

More than 30 community consultation sessions will be held across Victoria between 21 April and 22 May 2015. The Commission encourages those who have been affected by family violence, and those who work with them, to inquire about and register for upcoming sessions by calling 1800 365 100. Anyone requiring an interpreter should call 9321 5499.

The Royal Commission continues to seek written submissions. Individuals requiring assistance in making a submission should contact the Royal Commission via phone or email.

The Royal Commission expects to hold public hearings between Monday, 13 July 2015 and Friday, 14 August 2015. The hearings will take place at level 11, 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne and be open to the public. Anyone is welcome to attend to watch and listen or follow the hearings online via live webstream. More details are available at www.rcfv.com.au.

Quote attributed to Commissioner Neave:

'We are delighted with the level of attendance at the community consultations thus far and we are encouraged by the feedback and suggestions we've received about how to improve the family violence sector.'

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